Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7106

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FOR S/S AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY GEORGE VEST FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, UNGA, DA, GW, LU, EEC SUBJECT: NEW DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER

- 1. MET THIS MORNING WITH NEWLY APPOINTED FOREIGN MINISTER HENNING CHRISTOPHERSEN, IN PRESENCE OF PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY FOREIGN AFFAIRS EIGIL JORGENSEN, AND ACCOMPANIED BY DCM JAMES WHITE. SINCE THIS WAS SURELY ONE OF FIRST OFFICIAL VISITS RECEIVED BY NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO, AS HEAD OF VENSTRE PARTY AND CO-ARCHITECT OF NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT IS STILL DEEPLY INVOLVED IN MANEUVERING TO OBTAIN PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL FOR GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS, WE READ THIS AS STRONG AND MOST WELCOME SIGNAL OF HIS DESIRE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE U.S. AND OUR MISSION HERE.
- 2. FOR THE MOMENT, CHRISTOPHERSEN'S MAIN INTEREST SEEMS TO LIE IN THE ECONOMIC AREA, AND SPECIFICALLY IN THE EFFORT TO LOWER THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT, TO REDUCE THE INFLATION RATE AND TO DEAL WITH THE EVERY MORE SERIOUS UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HOPED TO DO THIS WITHOUT FOLLOWING A DEFLATIONARY COURSE AND IN CLOSE CONJUNCTION WITH EC PARTNERS, MOST PARTICULARLY THE GERMANS, IN LINE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS AT THE BONN AND BREMEN MEETINGS.
- ${\tt 3. \ CHRISTOPHERSEN \ AND \ JORGENSEN \ EXPRESSED \ TWO \ STRONG \ INTERESTS:}$

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PAGE 02 COPENH 05764 061653Z

- (A) AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO MEET WITH SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE DURING CHRISTOPHERSEN'S VISIT TO THE UN IN NEW YORK FROM SEPTEMBER 25-30.
- (B) TO BE KEPT AS CURRENTLY INFORMED AS POSSIBLE ON DEVELOPMENTS AT CAMP DAVID AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO HAVE THE MOST UP-TO-DATE AND COMPLETE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON SEPTEMBER 12, PRIOR TO CHRISTO-

PHERSEN'S DEPARTURE TO MEET SEPTEMBER 13 WITH MESSRS GENSCHER AND THRON, FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE FRG AND LUXEMBOURG, RESPECTIVELY.

4. IN VIEW OF CHRISTOPHERSEN'S COMPLETE NEWNESS TO THE FIELD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HIS LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE US FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATION, AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, BECAUSE OF THE CERTAINTY THAT HE WILL BE A MAJOR FACTOR ON FOREIGN POLICY FOR SOMETIME TO COME, I WOULD APPRECIATE AND REGARD IT AS ENORMOUSLY HELPFUL IN FURTHERING MY EFFECTIVENESS HERE IF (A) A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY COULD BE ARRANGED WHILE MINISTER CHRISTOPHERSEN IS IN NEW YORK, AND (2) IF WE COULD BE PROVIDED WITH UP-TO-DATE READINGS, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, ON EVENTS AT CAMP DAVID TO REACH US ON OR BEFORE SEPT. 12. MANSHEL

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